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REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action dated March 18, 2005. Claims 1-20 were examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8-10 and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by McDonald et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,530,065). Applicant has amended the independent claims 1, 10 and 15 to more clearly overcome this rejection.

Regarding independent claims 1 and 15, the Examiner has alleged that McDonald teaches all the limitations of the claims, including "identifying, among the plurality of cell names, cell names affiliated with the group." The examiner cites column 14, line 61 through column 15, line 10 for support of this position. In addition, the Examiner has most recently expressed the position that the recited "group" in the claim can include all of the plurality of cell names, and thus a listing of all the cell names, with nothing else so indicated, is tantamount to identifying the cell names affiliated with the group.

Applicant concedes the Examiner's position that a group of a plurality of objects can certainly include all the objects. However, Applicant respectfully traverses the position advanced by the Examiner that a mere listing of objects, of which *all* such objects are *always* affiliated with a "group" of objects, teaches the step of "identifying, among said plurality of objects, the objects affiliated with the group." Rather, Applicant believes that the limitation of "identifying, *among said plurality of cell names*, cell names affiliated with said group" implicitly includes distinguishing those cell names, if any, not affiliated with the group. Nonetheless, Applicant has amended claim 1 to now recite, in part:

identifying, among said plurality of cell names, cell names
affiliated with said group differently than remaining cell names not
affiliated with said group.

Such additional language should make clear that the identifying limitation includes being able to so identify cell names affiliated with the group differently than cell names not affiliated with the group, even in a special case when all such cell names are indeed affiliated with the

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group. McDonald provides no such teaching of this limitation, as a mere listing of cell names does not provide this limitation. Applicant believes claim 1, as amended, clearly overcomes this rejection.

Independent Claim 15, which recites similar limitations, has been amended similarly to claim 1, and is now believed to overcome the rejection as well.

Regarding independent claim 10, the Examiner has alleged that McDonald teaches all the limitations of the claims, including "... a subset of which [virtual buttons] operate to commence testing of parameters of a *set* of said plurality of electrical functions, the electrical functions included in said set being associated with a *group* of said plurality of cell names, said plurality of cell names affiliated with said group having a visually perceivable identifier associated therewith."

McDonald displays a list of components, each showing a visual outline of such components, but these outlines do not represent whether the component is associated with the group of the plurality of cell names, because *all* such components are *always* selected for simulation, as described above.

Nonetheless, Applicant has amended this claim to also make clear the distinction argued above with respect to claim 1. Claim 10 now recites, in part:

said plurality of cell names affiliated with said group having a visually perceivable identifier associated therewith that is not associated with remaining cell names not affiliated with said group.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that McDonald does not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 10, particularly as amended.

The dependent claims 2-6, 8, 9, 13, 14, and 16-20 are believed allowable at least for their dependence from an allowable independent claim. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests this rejection be withdrawn.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

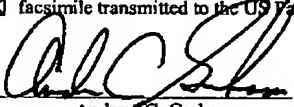
Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,530,065), as applied to claim 1, and Fan et al. (U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0188902).

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over McDonald et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,530,065), as applied to claim 10, and Kekic et al. (U. S. Patent No. 6,664,978).

Claims 7, 11, and 12 are believed to be allowable at least for their dependence from allowable claims 1 and 10.

Summary

In summary, claims 1-20 are in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. However, if the next contemplated Office action is other than a Notice of Allowance, the Applicant respectfully requests a telephone Examiner Interview to discuss any remaining concerns.

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Respectfully submitted,



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